

Government has also recently finalized a new "Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities". One of the objectives of the Programme is to ensure that an appropriate percentage of the credit is targeted for the minority communities. The RBI has accordingly advised all Scheduled Commercial Banks and the Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) to issue necessary instructions to their branch offices to ensure that within the overall target for priority sector lending and the sub-target for weaker sections, sufficient care is taken to ensure that the minority communities also receive an equitable portion of the credit.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Wholesale Price Index

†600. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been the tendency of increase in the wholesale price index ever since June- July, 2006 in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have also taken a number of steps to contain this increase; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Sir, there has been a general rise in the trend of WPI based inflation since July, 2006.

(b) Government is aware of the situation and has taken various measures to keep inflation under check.

(c) and (d) The recent measures taken by Government in this regard include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, lowering of duties, effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities through import, strengthening of the public distribution system and curbing of export in certain commodities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.